

CHAPTER: III OTHER PROGS & SRVCS	SECTION: 5 PURCHASE OF CHILD CARE (POC)	COMAR: 07.04.06
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Qualifying Note: Purchase of Care Program is a separate program administered by the Child Care Administration to which TCA case managers make referrals. Program information, including basic eligibility requirements, is provided here.

REQUIREMENTS

- A. Purchase of Child Care (POC) is available, funds permitting, through application at their local department to those who:
 - 1. Apply in their local department
 - 2. Need child care for employment, substance abuse treatment programs or other approved activities, and
 - 3. Receive Family Investment Program (FIP) assistance, or
 - 4. Meet POC income standards if not in receipt of FIP funds
- B. Priority for service is as follows:
 - 1. TCA customers who are employed, in job training, or in school
 - 2. Customers no longer receiving TCA due to employment
 - 3. Income-eligible non-TCA customers who are employed, in job training, or in school
 - 4. Primary consideration within each priority level to those families needing POC for a disabled child
- C. Eligibility is redetermined within 12 months

PROGRAM FUNCTION

- A. Eligible customers receive a voucher from the local department to take to the child care provider of their choice
 - 1. Providers may be regulated or informal
 - 2. Customers are directed to the local information and referral service for assistance in finding regulated providers
- B. Regulated child care includes:
 - 1. Family child care homes registered by DHR
 - 2. Child care centers licensed by DHR

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- C. Informal child care is not regulated and includes:
1. Adults related to the child
 2. Unrelated adults who provide care in the customer's home
 3. Adults who provide care in their home for under 20 hours a month
- D. The voucher indicates the:
1. Subsidy, based on the customer's income level, paid by the local department to the provider
 2. Minimum co-payment the customer must pay the provider

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Financial Eligibility — Child Care Expenses
- Post Eligibility Benefits — Purchase of Child Care
- Payment Irregularities — POC Irregularities
- POC Desk Guide